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Connecticut Department
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Newsletter

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DPH Update: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

In response to the newly emerging, and rapidly evolving situation with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) the CT DPH has created a webpage for healthcare providers to get updates and guidance. The website has links to DPH, CDC and other partner resources. To see the latest updates go to <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>.

Around the state clinical laboratories are preparing for test requests from clients for the novel coronavirus, but please be advised that clinicians must contact the CT Department of Public Health Epidemiology Program at 860-509-7994 (Monday-Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm) or 860-509-8000 (after-hours/weekends) and submit a “2019-nCoV Patient Under Investigation (PUI) Form” for approval of testing. Once diagnostic testing has been approved on specimens from individuals who meet the CDC clinical criteria for a 2019-nCoV patient under investigation (PUI), nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal (OP) aspirates, washes, NP or OP swabs, bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirates, and/or sputum can be collected, handled, and delivered to us in the same manner as influenza specimens (i.e. store specimen at 2-8°C up to 3 days). Transport to the laboratory is with a frozen ice pack coolant. If there is a delay in shipment expected, store specimens at -70°C or lower until delivered to the laboratory. If timing permits, specimen can be delivered with regularly scheduled courier. Testing will be conducted at the state laboratory within 24 hours. While samples are stable at 2-8°C up to 3 days, due to the high profile nature of COVID-19 testing, laboratories may wish to send specimens overnight for delivery Mon-Fri (no delivery on weekends) to expedite getting results. Samples received by 10 a.m. during the week will be tested same day. Weekend testing will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Once results are available CT DPH infectious disease staff will notify the healthcare provider with results immediately. Reports back to submitting laboratories will be by the established method in place for receipt of test results from the state laboratory.

To access the Coronavirus 2019 specimen requirements go to the CT DPH clinical directory of services at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/laboratory/labhome/lab-pdf-files/Clinical-Tests/2019_Novel-Coronavirus-rRT-PCR.pdf?la=en.

APHL Webinar: Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19): Laboratory Risk Assessments and Lessons Learned

TIME: March 12, 2020 at 1:00PM ET

DESCRIPTION: This webinar will provide attendees with knowledge on how to safely and securely handle respiratory and other specimens from persons under investigation (PUIs). Speakers will present on the biological risk assessment process to mitigate risks in the laboratory and reduce the likelihood of a laboratory acquired infection. Participants will also hear from both public health and clinical laboratories on their lessons learned. This webinar will be recorded and made available for those unable to listen live.

AUDIENCE: This program is intended for anyone who works in or supervises a public health or clinical laboratory, including clinical and public health laboratory staff, microbiology students, veterinary microbiology laboratory workers, veterinarians, medical doctors, biotech industry laboratory workers and research scientists.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program, Florida and CPH-recertification. P.A.C.E.® is accepted by all licensure states except Florida.

Pending approval, this webinar will provide 1.0 contact hour for participants who successfully complete this training

REGISTRATION: Registration is free!

- Site facilitator must register online at https://aphl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pwrRD5ucRQGH14IHWaLUgQ
- Having difficulty with the online registration process? Please email registrar@aphl.org or call 240.485.2727 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm ET.
- For program content information, please email webinars@aphl.org.

Reminder: Packaging and Shipping Workshop at State Laboratory

The CT DPH laboratory is hosting a Packaging and Shipping of Infectious Substances (Category A and B), and Dry Ice on March 19. This workshop is currently full but there is a wait list. Should anyone drop out, wait list registrars will be notified of opening. The workshop is approximately 4 hours long and will be held at the state laboratory in Rocky Hill. The session will give a comprehensive overview of the regulations applicable to packaging and shipping of laboratory specimens including Category A and B infectious substances, exempt human specimens, dry ice, and the exceptions for motor vehicle transport. It will include the information necessary for staff that package and document Category A infectious shipments. Lectures, demonstrations and group exercises will be used to provide instruction for this course. There will be a certificate of attendance upon completion of the testing. To register go to CT TRAIN at https://www.train.org/connecticut/course/1090080/live_event Course ID 1090080.





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[http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/
view.asp?a=3122&q=396860](http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3122&q=396860)

The Connecticut Public Health Laboratory serves all communities in the state through the analysis of clinical specimens and environmental samples submitted by federal and state agencies, local health departments, clinical laboratories, health care providers, and water utilities. Our mission is to keep Connecticut healthy!

2020 CT DPH Links to Current Forms and Testing Services:

Clinical Test Requisition Form OL-9B

Link: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/laboratory/labhome/lab-forms/Clin-Test-Req-OL9B-Rev-2019 FNLFILL-012419.pdf>

Laboratory Report of Significant Findings Form OL-15C

Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/dph/infectious_diseases/pdf_forms/OL15C_Form.pdf?la=en

Directory of Clinical Testing Services

Link: <http://www.portal.ct.gov/DPH/Laboratory/Clinical-Testing-Services/DCTS-101915>

